

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 28, 2000 LB 1405
 LR 332

This is not tax funds. This is not a general appropriation. This is the university's own generated cash funds. Certainly, we have authority over the amount of the appropriations, but if you take a step further to the university's own cash funds, the court has ruled that the Legislature does not have authority to control the use by the Board of Regents of that. That's precisely what this bill would do. It's precisely the reason that this bill is unconstitutional.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR 332. (Legislative Journal page 1396.) Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise, again, to oppose this bill and support the bracket motion and, again, to state my support for the process that's in place in this state for the Board of Regents that governs the university to have the ability and establish procedures, policies and committees that address a lot of the issues that we're talking about today on the floor. And I also support the comments that Senator Bromm made and that I made earlier that it is unfortunate that this bill has come to us in the...in the cloak of a pro-life pro-choice discussion because there are significant problems with the bill, but I guess I also feel there are significant problems with the process. However, if we're going to discuss the research and what our discussion is doing to the research, I do have a couple of more comments just on that aspect in and of itself. First of all, we are very lucky to have a health institution like the Nebraska Med Center. There are people who come here from around the country for treatment. There are nationally known researchers here and the stature of that University Medical Center is certainly impacted by our discussion. So I rise to support that and I also want to use the rest of my time to tell another story, and this story is more typical for a lot of you who may have known people with this disease, but this is the story of my dad. When I was in college, he took me out to lunch one day to talk, and what he had to tell me was that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. And the main thing he wanted to say to me was that I shouldn't worry, it was not genetic, and he didn't know what the future would hold, but his concern was that my sister and I